



Docket No. 002250-2

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Michael B. SUNDEL) Group Art Unit: 3624
Serial No. 09/996,825) Examiner: Akers, Geoffrey R.
Filed: November 30, 2001)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR)
FACILITATING SHIPMENT OF)
PACKAGES)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

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Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 4, 2003, reconsideration in view of the following comments is respectfully requested. Claims 1-21 are pending.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative, Mr. Jason Vick, during the May 6, telephone interview.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,664,110 to Green et al. (hereinafter "Green") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,897,622 to Blinn et al. (hereinafter "Blinn"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, storing package data, including item data, in a database, retrieving shipment tracking data from the shipping mechanism, adding the shipment tracking data to the database and correlating the package data in the database with the shipment tracking data.

In contrast, Green is directed toward a *remote ordering system*. In particular, the remote ordering system of Green provides a user the ability to build and edit one or more order lists, resident in memory within a user device, and the further ability to review and manipulate a user interpretable display of the contents of such a list. While Green discusses on columns 12 and 13 the ability to confirm an order, execute the order and provides a delivery option screen 120, Green does not teach, suggest or disclose any further methods or steps regarding the granularity of the package

contents not the actual shipping data as claimed.

Applicant respectfully submits that while the systems of Green and the presentation could be used together, they are not codependent and could be separate and distant systems. For example, the system of Green could be used for the remote ordering process prior to the shipping functions of the present invention.

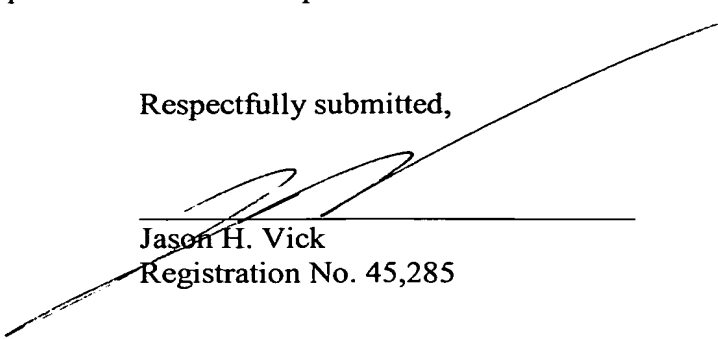
Specifically, Green at least fails to teach, suggest or disclose storing package data, including item data, and correlating the package data in the database with the shipment tracking data. Similarly, in relation to claim 12, Applicant respectfully submits that Green at least fails to teach, suggest or disclose a processor having a database for storing and processing package data, the package data including item data, a first communication link adapted for selectively enabling communication between said processor and said sender's terminal, for selectively transmitting the package data from said sender's terminal to said processing system, and for selectively transmitting said package data relating to a selected package to said sender's terminal responsive to a request and a shipper terminal and a customs facilitator terminal.

While Blinn is related to an electronic shopping and merchandising system, Blinn at least fails to overcome the deficiencies as noted above in relation to Green. Furthermore, claims 2-11 and 13-21, which depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 12, respectively, are also not anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references for at least the reasons outlined above and the additional feature(s) they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully submits the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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